



Montana  
**Office of Public Instruction**  
Denise Juneau, State Superintendent

**opi.mt.gov**

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Dear Parent or Guardian:

In January and February of 2010, the Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI) will administer a statewide pilot test to determine ways to improve the Montana Comprehensive Assessment System (MontCAS) tests of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade reading and mathematics. The research is funded by the United States Department of Education through a General Supervision Enhancement Grant (GSEG) to the State of Montana. The pilot test is the final activity of the three year project. Based on the results, the OPI will decide if it is feasible to include this approach in the MontCAS.

Your son or daughter has been selected to participate in one of the pilot tests (in reading or mathematics). The following is information about the CRT-M pilot tests.

The CRT-M is an interactive, computer-based assessment which provides students with a hint where needed, to answer questions. All questions are multiple choice. Each student will take one test using a computer and headphones. Students will be asked to complete a short online survey about their experience after taking the test. There are:

- 50 items in each test of mathematics at grades 7 and 8.
- 6 reading passages with 42 items in the grade 7 reading test.
- 3 test sessions for each test containing 10-17 items per session. Students will be able to take breaks between sessions.
- practice sessions prior to each test, so students can see how the test works before beginning.

This activity will be conducted professionally with strict adherence to ethical and legal requirements. All data will be aggregated and reported in such a way that no participating community, system, school, student, or teacher can be identified. There are no foreseeable risks to your child or to you associated with this project. On the contrary, we hope that this research leads to improvements on the MontCAS which will benefit all students.

The participation of your child is voluntary. If you do not wish for your child to be involved, please inform your school by November 18, 2009.

If you have any questions about the pilot test, please contact  
Judy Snow, State Assessment Director, [jsnow@mt.gov](mailto:jsnow@mt.gov) 406-444-3656

We look forward to your child's participation in this important activity. Thank you for your interest and support.

Judy Snow

State Assessment Director